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GENDER EQUALITY PROJECT

2013 ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

DONORS



CIDA



ITALY



Afghanistan



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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project ID:	00071928
Duration:	January 2013 - December 2015
ANDS Component:	Good Governance (Gender Equality as one of the six cross-cutting themes)
Contributing to NPP:	Component 6 of MoWA's NPP
CPAP Outcome:	Increased opportunities for income generation through the promotion of diversified livelihoods, private sector development and public-private partnerships
UNDP Strategic Plan Component:	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
Total Budget:	30 Million USD
Annual Budget 2013:	6.6 Million USD
Un-Funded Amount:	15 Million USD
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Key Responsible Parties:	Ministry of Women Affairs UNDP
Project Manager:	Fulya Vekiloglu
Responsible Assistant Country Director	Noorullah Ahmadzai

COVER PHOTO: Women Entrepreneurs from four target regions visited women market in Pakistan.

ACRONYMS

ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BC	Budget Circular
BDS	Business Development Packages
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DoWA	Directorate of Women Affairs
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GSI	Gender Studies Institute
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GEP-II	Gender Equality Project –II
KU	Kabul University
LHC	Legal Help Center
LM	Line Ministries
METU	Middle East Technical University
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MoCN	Ministry of Counter Narcotics
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoHRA	Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PWDC	Provincial Women Development Council
PC	Provincial Council
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WPDC	Women Policy Development Centre

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gender Equality Project (GEP-II) is UNDP Afghanistan's flagship program on gender and women empowerment. Now on its second phase, the project's overarching objective is to develop effective gender mainstreaming models and strengthen the capacity of government ministries and institutions in gender-based policy making., GEP-II contributes to UNDAF Outcome in enhancing government capacity to deliver services to the poor and vulnerable as well as to the Tokyo Mutual Assistance Framework's (TMAF) objectives of inclusiveness and sustainable development. Implemented in collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) the project is line with the goals set out in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) for gender equity and is consistent with the National Priority Programs (NPP) and National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA). The project also assists MoWA on the application of the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law, which is a key deliverable in the TMAF.

To achieve the project goals outlined above, GEP-II has three main pillars: 1) enhancement of Ministry of Women's Affairs capacity for policy-making and oversight of National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan (NAPWA) implementation; 2) development of women's entrepreneurship skills and capacity building for women's cooperatives; and 3) increasing access to justice for women including awareness of women's right among men and women.

In regard to the first pillar on strengthening MoWA's capacity for policy-making and oversight of NAPWA implementation, GEP-II worked closely with the MoWA's Women's Policy and Development Center (now a Directorate). Through its partnership with local research institution, GEP-II supported the successful completion of a Policy Review Toolkit that will be used by ministries in reviewing the gender sensitiveness of their policies. In 2013, GEPII completed the policy review of nine ministries exceeding its 2013 annual target of reviewing policies of eight ministries. With support of the project a 'Strategic Plan to establish Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) mechanism' within the Government of Afghanistan was developed. GRB approach was incorporated into the budget statement of six pilot ministries for the years (2012-2013) to support fair distribution of resources from a gender equality perspective. This resulted in GRB allocation increase from 27% in 2011 to 29% in 2013.

Part of strengthening the capacity for oversight on NAPWA implementation is increasing the demand and supply for understanding gender-based rights in Afghanistan. To this end, GEP continued to support training programs of the Gender Studies Institute (GSI). GEP has also taken gender trainings one step higher this year as it took initial steps to establish a Master's Degree Program in Development and Gender Studies in Kabul University and in partnership with Middle Eastern Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. This will be the first graduate program of its kind in Afghanistan. It can be concluded that GSI achieved

its main targets in providing certificate courses and trainings and partnership with relevant universities but more importantly, the establishment of the Master's Degree will institutionalize and ensure sustainability of the delivery of gender training programs in Afghanistan.

On the second pillar which is contributing to women's economic empowerment, GEP-II implemented activities that improved the entrepreneurship skills of women including management of women cooperatives. In this regard, GEP-II efforts in 2013 focused on vetting and contracting NGOs and CSO partners who will deliver services such as business development service packages and cooperative management trainings. For GEP, this meant developing clear scopes of work for the NGOs, selecting and getting agreement and buy-in from MOWA to work with the NGOs and finally providing the NGOs with contracts to deliver the activities.

Moreover, during the year a total of 486 women entrepreneurs from the provinces of Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, and Nangharhar benefitted from trainings, conferences and exposure visits locally where they had the opportunity to showcase their products and establish market linkages. Business management skills were also developed through out of country visits in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. In Pakistan, women learned the rubrics of cooperative management and enterprise development while in Kyrgyzstan they learned about social mobilization and women's economic empowerment. Exposing women entrepreneurs to local and international business models improved entrepreneurship skills and knowledge of women thereby increasing their chances in expanding their business and generating more income.

One of the biggest obstacles faced by women in Afghanistan is access to justice and very limited awareness of their rights. In 2013, GEP-II activities under the third pillar aimed to increase awareness of women's rights by supporting MoWA's high-level advocacy campaigns such as the 16-day campaign on Elimination of Violence Against Women in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan including 10 districts of Kabul Province. Through a partnership with the Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs, religious leaders who play a critical role in influencing citizens' understanding and acceptance of women's rights received training on women's rights in Islam. In turn, they committed themselves to spreading the knowledge to their communities. By raising the awareness on women's rights among religious leaders, this type of trainings has the potential of contributing to elimination of violence against women. Those religious leaders if sensitized contribute to changing mind set and societal change of women's rights and empowerment. In Afghanistan if awareness-raising of women's rights is done by religious leaders it is more powerful and influential.

GEP-II also supported Legal Help Centers (LHCs). LHCs play a critical role in improving women's access to justice. These centers assist women in resolving their issues such as domestic abuse, forced and early marriages and other forms of violence. Data received

from the centers reveal high success rate in resolving cases with 83% of registered cases resolved at the LHC level, 16% referred to Department of Justice and less than 1% referred to the police. This indicates effectiveness of legal help centers as well as trust in these facilities. LHCs play informal mediation role and in demand at local level as they provide protection for vulnerable women.

Overall, 2013 was a challenging year for GEP considering that it was operating with less than half of the staff that it needed in more than 6 months of the year. Despite this, it managed to deliver modest yet effective results. In 2013, GEP-II concentrated its efforts in four provinces: Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar. Six more provinces will be added in 2014 to scale-up efforts and increase geographic coverage.

GEP-II is generously supported by several donors. These are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Canadian International Agency for Development (CIDA), the Government of Italy and the Government of Afghanistan.

II. RESULTS:

A. OUTPUT 1: MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.

One of MoWA's primary mandate is to function as a policy making and oversight body to ensure that the policies and programs of line ministries and other public sector organizations mainstream gender and make "gender concerns the collective responsibility of all sectors of the Government." To address this, GEP's Output 1 is aimed at providing policy support and capacity building of MoWA officials to effectively oversee the NAPWA implementation. GEP, which is based in MoWA focuses its efforts to provide necessary support towards the capacity building programs for MoWA officials and their respective directorates throughout the country. Women Policy Development Center (WPDC) established by GEP, was included under "Tashkeel" by MoWA was renamed as WPDD, Women's Policy Development Directorate (WPDD). This is a progressive step towards the sustainability of the project intervention at MoWA. What follows are the project achievements during the entire year per indicator under Output 1:

Indicator 1.1 Number of gender policies and strategies reviewed/formulated and gender components included

WPDC was established in 2011 with the main objective of undertaking gender analysis of strategies of other ministries and to facilitate the development of innovative gender-focused policies that are recognized nationally. It is intended to function as a cross-sectoral entity in order to provide the policy framework and overall practical guidance for each ministry and sector. This is to ensure that woman's needs and interests are incorporated into the total development process for guaranteeing gender balanced results as outlined in the NAPWA indicators.

H.E. the Deputy Minister Technical, Ms. Mostafavi, highlighted the importance of MoWA to review policies of their gender-sensitivity, and whether these were aligned with the mandates of NAPWA and ANDS. She articulated that the "Ministry is responsible for reviewing of the policies and strategies of 25 other line ministries, thus, the Directorate of Policy and Planning should craft a one-year plan on how this task could be met in order to facilitate a more efficient and effective means to perform this activity."

In 2013, the "Toolkit for Policy Review" was finalized and an introductory and application workshop was organized by WPDC for 29 officials from different directorates of MoWA. The policy review toolkit was introduced as an appropriate and standardized framework to systematically evaluate the policies and strategies within MoWA and other line ministries.

To address the prevailing lack of gender-focused strategies in the policies of the different sectorial ministries of the Government, for 2013, WPDC completed the review and gender scan of the policies of 9 Line Ministries (LM). These were: Ministry of Finance (MoF),

Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MoCNs), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA). 8 ministries were targeted for review in 2013 but the project completed 9. The table below presents the summary of major findings of the review. As a result of the policy review, these ministries have a concrete basis for making adjustments into their policies as well as take steps necessary to put gender responsive policies into action. At the same time, initial models of ministries with gender responsive policies were identified such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

No.	MINISTRY	Major Findings of Policy Review from a Gender Perspective
1	Ministry of Finance (MoF),	Aid management policy and strategic plan of MoF were well crafted but the issue of gender mainstreaming in these endeavors was not addressed. However in the strategic plan of the MoF in its Budget Reform, Gender Budgeting was mentioned in the gender analysis in the formulation of the budget and allocation of resources as well as budget impact on women and men. The Aid Management Policy covers all the important areas but there was no method offered through which 30% of the Aid has to be allocated for betterment of Afghan women.
2	Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MoCNs)	The findings from the review of the policies of the MoCN revealed that there was nothing mentioned about addressing issues of addicted women and girls. Nonetheless, data on their recent studies about women, girls and children who are drug addicts was presented.
3	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)	Policy for MAIL is comprehensive and coherent with the NAPWA and Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) documents. The next step to take is the review of possibilities of how the gender policy could be operationalized within the departments and with the various levels of operations. There is a need also to identify the gaps and best practices as the policy is translated into action.
4	Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA)	The policy of MoHRA was reviewed but there was no sufficient information about the gender perspective in the ministry. The immediate task would be to work with MoWA tp make sure that MoHRA's policies are gender sensitive and aligned with what the NAPWA and ANDS stated regarding the role they play in attaining the national goal of women's empowerment and gender equality.
6	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) (Infant and Young Child Policy)	MoPH policy for infant and young children is gender-sensitive but it needs to take into consideration the lack of female health professionals. Girls and women are more exposed to malnutrition than men and boys. Thus, the Infant and Young Child Policy (IYCP) should have tackled and addressed this issue. In the present IYCP document there is no mention of infant and young child feeding – the practice and context and sex-disaggregated data of said practice. Infant and young child feeding is very much related to nutrition/malnutrition.
	Ministry of Public	In the National Gender Strategy, the lack of qualified female health

	Health (MoPH) (National and Midwifery Services Policy and Strategy 2011-2015)	professionals such as midwives and nurses and the importance of designing training activities that integrate the importance of gender-sensitive programming are some of its priorities. The policy noted that it will ensure the enrollment of female candidates to the profession and make certain that the working environment is gender-sensitive are critical steps to addressing the lack of female midwives and nurses in Afghanistan. However, having an efficient and effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism is equally important to guarantee that what the policy has noted are translated into actions.
	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) (National Public Nutrition Policy and Strategy)	MoPH policy for public health and nutrition is gender-sensitive but the ministry has to be explicit with its gender analysis since nutrition data is not sex-disaggregated.
	(National HIV/AIDS Policy)	MoPH policy on HIV/AIDS is gender-sensitive but data is not sex-disaggregated to provide an analysis from the gender perspective.
7	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)	Gender-sensitive but procedures for collaboration with other ministries should be indicated.
8	Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)	MoHE has a clear emphasis on gender equity and focuses on four key points, namely: equal opportunities for all, increasing number of students and women in higher education teaching positions, and assessment of existing inequalities. However, the ministry don't operationalize on the basis of sex-disaggregated data.
9	Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) claimed that its Social Gender Policy is formulated in consideration with ANDS, NAPWA, and other national and international documents that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a signatory. The policy focused on justice and gender equity. The goal of the ministry strategy is related to the desired outcomes such as rehabilitating the MoJ infrastructure and having separate facilities for women prisoners and juvenile in custody. This not only involves physical infrastructure but the social infrastructure to address this issue. The strategy goal mentions about increasing access to justice for all, particularly women, and level of legal awareness among them. However, the mechanism of achieving this is not clear and this applies as well with Social Gender Policy.

In order to facilitate MoWA to better undertake the role of oversight body for the implementation of NAPWA indicators, a five-day workshop was conducted for the Department of Women Affairs DoWA directors and planning managers from 34 provinces for 78 participants. M&E tools and guidelines were likewise introduced to the participants. At the end of the training the participants learned how to collect and analyze NAPWA indicators data at the provincial level. During the post training evaluation, 75% of the participants evaluated the workshop as satisfactory and according to their needs.



*Workshop of the NAPWA Indicators for DoWA Directors
Photo Credit: UNDP Communication unit*

I am really thankful to the UNDP for supporting MoWA both technically and logistically to conduct such a grand workshop for the directors and the planning managers from 34 provinces of the country. This workshop is the contribution towards the MoWA most miscellaneous role as compared to other ministries in terms of M&E of NAPWA implementation". (H.E Minister of Women Affairs)

1.2 Number of gender trainings/ certificate courses and exposure visit conducted to institutionalize the GSI (Gender Studies Institute)

In partnership with MoWA, UNESCO and UNIFEM (UN Women), a Gender Studies Institute (GSI) was established at the University of Kabul in 2004. To this date, the Institute provides Certificate courses in Gender, Conflict and Development. Funded by GEP, the training is provided by a core group of trainers from Public Relations Department of MoWA on gender mainstreaming in academic institutions. In 2013, the institute took the training one step further by establishing partnership and networking with the academic institutions at the international level.

Study Tour for the establishment of partnership with Turkish University:

In the fourth quarter of the year, an exposure and consultation visit was arranged for **14** senior officials of MoWA, MoHE, Parliament and Kabul University (KU) to Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. This initial meeting conducted between MoHE and METU academic Faculty, aimed to establish a joint secretariat to further work on the Master's degree program on gender studies. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is in



*Group Photo of Senior Officials of MoWA, MoHE, KU and METU
Photo Credi: METU Ankara*

progress between MoHE, KU and METU to formalize the partnership. This agreement will result in the launch of Master's Degree Program in the field of Gender and Women Studies in KU. For the first time, it will provide an opportunity for male and female students of KU to nourish their career in the field of gender studies. This addresses a critical gap in Afghanistan since there is no specialized education dealing with gender issues. The Master's Degree Program is expected to attract, talented and progressive students of the country who will serve as gender focal points in various gender fields to contribute serve their country.

GSI Certificate Courses:

During the first year of the second phase of GEP, GSI continued with its certificate course program at KU and extended to the target regional universities. In 2013, **120** students from Nangarhar University were trained in Sharia Law, Journalism and Political Sciences. GSI completed its annual target for the year 2013 and successfully organized Gender, Conflict and Development Certificate courses for **83** faculty members, **90** admin staff and **200** students from Sharia Law, journalism and art faculties of KU. The trainings provided by GSI improved the participants' knowledge on women's rights in the context of Islam.

As part of GSI activity, for the first time, students of KU celebrated the "Students International Day" with the technical and financial support from GEP-II. Elimination of Violence Against Women was highlighted as a theme through theater performance, music and poems. The event took place at the main auditorium of KU with **300** participants

including H.E. Minister of MoWA, senior management of UNDP Afghanistan, Vice Chancellor of KU, professors and students from different faculties of KU.

1.3 Number of ministries in which Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) principles introduced

GRB is a powerful tool that involves a gender sensitive analysis of budget priorities. It is an ongoing process of engagement to ensure that gender gaps are addressed. Gender Budgeting is thus a process that entails incorporating a gender perspective at all levels and stages of the budgetary process - planning/ policy/ programme formulation, assessment of needs of target



*GRB workshop for MoWA and line ministries
Photo credit: UNDP - GEP*

groups, allocation of resources, implementation, impact assessment, re-prioritization of resources. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) cell based in the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) focused on the integration of gender specific elements in the budget statements/circulars, training of line ministries staff, review and analysis of budget documents for gender sensitivity approaches for the integration of GRB into line ministry budget processes.

This year, GEP-II supported the development of Strategy for Gender Responsive Budgeting. In collaboration with the Budget Directorate of the Ministry of Finance, the GRB implementation was extended to two new line ministries. These ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Ministry of Rural Livelihood Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). This brought the number of pilot ministries where the GRB principles were incorporated in their Budget circulars to six¹ this year. The Budget circular-I (BC-I) collected from the pilot ministries were analyzed and a report was formulated. The major finding was that, there was increase in GRB allocation from 27% in 2011 to 29% in 2013. Some of the other recommendations from the budget review were: the BC should include the indicators from NAPWA and ANDS (Afghanistan National Development Strategy), the inclusion of gender criteria at output and outcome level,

¹ Ministry of Public Health(MoPH),Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)

provision of gender breakdown both at operation and development projects with exact percentage of female beneficiaries.

Development of GRB Strategic Plan to integrate GRB in the national budget:

In 2013, Gender Responsive Budgeting Cell at Ministry of Finance (MoF) came up with noteworthy achievements particularly the development of GRB Strategic Plan to integrate GRB in the national budget. The aim is to establish an enabling process to move forward in implementing GRB, to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the national development priorities for the next three years. The plan was developed, based on the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), NAPWA and an analysis of key opportunities and challenges for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the selected sectors. The strategic plan will result in providing innovative programming and financial support to pilot ministries to achieve gender equality in line with the national priorities. This will also strengthen partnerships and coordination between MoF and line ministries recognizing that a key function of the MoF is to support and promote gender equality and women's empowerment through the process of GRB.

Training on GRB abroad:

In the fourth quarter of 2013, GEP-II supported "Gender Responsive budgeting Training" for 25 government officials from MoF and six pilot ministries in the ASCI (Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad). This training provided government officials the skills, methodologies, and gender audit tools when making Budget Circular 1 & 2. Likewise, they would better realize how to consider gender criteria prior to formulating both development and operational budget in their relevant sectors.



GRB training participants
Photo Credit: Training center ASCI, Hyderabad, India

Indicator 1.4 Number of functional gender units in the line ministries which are equipped with gender specific technical skills.

Strengthening gender units in line ministries was dependent on the availability of a technical specialist from GEP-II to implement the related activities. For this particular indicator GEP-II was unable to progress towards its target as the project was only able to

recruit a Gender and Capacity Development Specialist in the 3rd quarter of 2013 after an intensive search. Thus, in the last quarter of the year, capacity assessment tools were designed but not finalized and implemented.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During year 2013, a total of USD 861,672 was spent for this output. For more details, please see annex 2.

Below is a snapshot of where GEP-II is in relation to its annual targets after Q4

Table 1: Objective 1 Performance Indicators and Actual Achievements

2013 BASELINE	2013 ANNUAL TARGETS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2013 ACTUAL	COMMENTS
1. One gender policy and two strategies formulated and 10 national policies/strategies reviewed by the WPDC and gender components in 2 national policies included	Eight national and 1 sub-national policies and strategies reviewed and two gender policies/strategies formulated and gender components included	WPDC completed drafting the policy toolkit	Initial reviews of the policies of Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Ministry of Anti-Narcotics (MoCN), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Development (MRRD) Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA)	Completed second round of the Policy Review of the MoPH, MoJ and MoHRA	Organized workshop for the officials of MoWA from different directorates to introduce the policy toolkit	Completed the review of the policies of 9 LMs (MoF, MoHE, MoCN, MRRD, MAIL, MoJ, MoJ, MoPH MoHRA,) Developed policy review toolkit and introduced to the officials of MoWA	On Track and exceeded the annual target to review the policies of LM

2. Five trainings/certificate course have been conducted for KU and 2 for provincial universities	2. GSI trainings conducted for 12 faculties of KU and 4 provincial universities	Conducted Gender Awareness training at the end of March for 50 admin staff of Kabul University (KU)	Conducted Gender awareness and gender mainstreaming trainings for 100 students of faculty of Sharia-Law, Journalism and 99 staff of Admin Unit of KU	Conducted training for the faculty members of KU Conducted two trainings at Nangarhar University for 120 students on Sharia Law, Journalism and social sciences faculty		GSI successfully completed its target for the year 2013 and conducted 5 trainings for KU staff and students from different faculties Conducted 2 trainings at regional level (Nangarhar University)	On Track
3. GEP-I supported MoF for 4 pilot ministries to apply GRB principles.	3. GRB piloted in 3 new Ministries	BC2 approved by MoF and BC1 sent to the pilot ministries for their comments and	Analyzed BC-I report finalized with basic findings.	Recruited GRB consultant and conducted and 2 GRB	Conducted GRB training at international level for the	Successfully piloted GRB in 6 LM (2 new LM were added	On Track

		review.		workshops for MoWA and LM Submitted draft of GRB strategy to MoWA for their review and comments.	staff of LM	as pilot)	
4. No gender units in line ministries with gender specific technical skills	Functional gender units which are equipped with gender specific technical skills in 2 line ministries established						Not achieved No activity at all in this area because Capacity Building Specialist only came on board in October 2103 and resigned immediately after 3 months even before any substantive activity can be implemented.

B. OUTPUT 2: Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.

Contributing to the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), the Economic Empowerment Pillar aims to have a significant impact on stimulating the national economy and alleviating poverty by promoting the productivity and competitiveness of women-owned enterprises. This should also enhance the capability of the rural women in the targeted provinces to engage in viable farm and non-farm enterprises. The ultimate objective under this component of the project is to facilitate the participation of women in the development process while simultaneously increasing their active involvement in income-generation activities.

Indicator 2.1 Number of Business Development Services (BDS) packages provided to women

In the 2013 annual work plan, GEP-II intended to provide business development service packages to women-owned enterprises. This also included establishing training facilities in the four regions in cooperation with the government. This year efforts of the team were mostly focused on preparing the groundwork for delivery of BDS packages. This was mainly in terms of developing request for proposals, reviewing the proposals and conducting coordination meetings to select implementing partners who would provide BDS packages to women entrepreneurs. Due to bureaucratic procedures in contracting the selected NGOs implementation will begin in early 2014.

Indicator 2.2 Number of women led new clean technologies introduced

New clean technologies will be provided by GEP-II to women to improve their lives. To achieve this objective, a call for proposals was initiated in the first quarter of 2013. GEP-II received a number of competitive proposals from various national and international NGOs. GEP-II team together with UNDP Program Unit, MoWA and selected UNDP Projects reviewed and vetted the NGOs. The contract was finalized for approval by MoWA in the fourth quarter of 2013. As a result the NGO partners are now positioned to implement the planned activities in 2014.

Similar to other activities where implementation is related to contracting NGO partners, implementation is delayed due to some bureaucratic issues that had to be resolved but in 2014 the selected NGO² partners are expected develop their action plans in close

² Research Institute for Women Peace and Security (RIWPS-Afghanistan), Afghan Women Network (AWN), QARA Consulting, Inc., Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS), Afghan Women Education Centre (AWEC), Equality for Peace and Development (EPD), Social Safety & Social Protection Organization (SSSPO), Afghans for Afghanistan's Development (AFAD)

consultation with GEP-II and will be approved by MoWA to implement starting from 1st quarter 2014. The clean and green technologies will be provided depending on the scope of the target regions (Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar and Bamyan). The NGO partners will be working closely with DoWA and Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) and MoWA will be responsible for the monitoring and verification of the project intervention.

Indicator 2.3 Number of functional women coops in targeted areas

For the year 2013, GEP-II developed activities to strengthen women organizations/cooperatives. These activities were implemented in collaboration of DoWA and Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) to undertake collective actions for economic empowerment through women's identified needs. Efforts were geared to build Women's social capital through cooperatives at local level to provide a supportive environment for enlarging economic assets for Afghan women to generate income.

In order to build the capacity of the existing women cooperatives, GEP-II supported a 2 days training program on Saffron Cultivation and processing for two women cooperatives (30 women beneficiaries) from Dehdadi and Khulm districts in Balkh province with the collaboration of DAIL. The training covered important topics related to the saffron cultivation including selection of Saffron tubers for cultivation, climatic conditions, irrigational requirements, harvesting and Saffron processing.

Meanwhile, in the last quarter of 2013, for the first time in Afghanistan 350 business women came together for a conference on small medium enterprises. This event, which was conducted in cooperation with the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, gave women the opportunity to present their initiatives and exhibit their crafts. The seminar resulted developing a position paper that outlined the challenges women face in the business sector and the way forward. Some of the recommendations put forth in the paper included increasing women's role in business, minimizing the threats hindering businesses run by women, prioritization of funding for women entrepreneur, women capacity development in relation to financial services, entrepreneurship, soft skills as well as increasing the overall role of women in business.

At the conference, UNDP senior management reiterated that: "UNDP Afghanistan considers gender equality and women's economic empowerment as an imperative for accelerating and broadening progress towards inclusive and sustainable economic development."

In Nangarhar, a one day workshop was conducted for all women cooperatives working province in order to build their capacity in establishing a network of local female cooperatives with the government institutions. **Seventy five** women owned businesses and cooperatives participated. There was also a good presence from the governmental directorates including DOWA, DAIL/ Head of cooperatives department, Deputy Governor, Representative of National and International NGOs, UN agencies, CSOs and other governmental and non-governmental entities.

During the year, the project also facilitated two international exposure visits. In the 3rd quarter of 2013, 10 women cooperative members and entrepreneurs



*Exposure Visit of UNDP-Afghanistan Women Cooperative Members and Entrepreneurs to RSPN Pakistan
Photo Credit: RSPN Pakistan*

from Herat, Bamyan, Kabul, Nangarhar and Balkh as well as from various livelihood sectors such as jewelry-making, milk production, off-season vegetable farming, processed foods and handicrafts production went to Pakistan learn more about cooperative management and enterprise development. In Pakistan, Afghan women entrepreneurs visited women led enterprises and projects of Rural Support Program Network (RSPN). As a result of the visit in Pakistan, women entrepreneurs and cooperative members gained new business ideas and better ways of managing a cooperative to make it more sustainable.

While the exposure visit to Pakistan focused on women entrepreneurship development, the visit to Kyrgyzstan was specifically targeting learning innovative methodologies for ensuring involvement of women from poorest groups into development processes. The visit was organized as a combination of learning sessions, bilateral meetings, round table discussions and field visits to the villages. The composition of the delegation of women from Afghanistan was represented by government officials and women leaders from civil society organizations. It allowed aiming at and reaching the two-pronged results: 1) exchange of cross-country experiences on policy frameworks and institutional set-up for promoting gender equality. It was highlighted in Media outlets that powerful messages given by the members of delegation allowed picturing real situation in building peace and equitable and fair development processes in Afghanistan, and which was essential for changing the image of Afghanistan as the country with strong women movement. In turn, the representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs noted on learning from Kyrgyzstan colleagues about useful approaches for strengthening government role and its involvement in gender responsive local development and poverty reduction. 2) women leaders, representing provincial NGOs learned about social mobilization approach, with a specific focus on the tools to ensure outreach to women from poorest households, methods for mobilizing poor women in self-help groups and providing them with tools for

confidence building, community solidarity, and self-reliant and sustainable income generation initiatives. The methodological package was handed over to the members of the delegation with a view of its further application in Afghanistan. The follow up action plan developed by exposure visit participants included adaptation the methodological materials to the specificities of Afghanistan and its application in pilot GEP-II provinces, specifically in relation to use of innovative methods for targeting poorest groups, their effective and sustainable participation in local development, development of household and village baselines and subsequent monitoring. The visit helped in building relationships between Afghan and Kyrgyz NGOs, resulted in agreements for continued partnership on consultative and coaching exchanges (email/skype), joint training on social mobilization, self-help group dynamics, community cooperative development, marketing, sustainable local production chains, and conflict prevention and peace building.

One of the participants of the Kyrgyzstan visit expressed her satisfaction about the visit in these words;

"I was really impressed that women of Kyrgyzstan managed to leverage the modest opportunities and get the maximum benefit of them. They have been working tirelessly and made a huge work for themselves and their nation. They have achieved this and could solve their needs and rely on their own".

Indicator 2.4 Percentage of increase in women income in the targeted population

To empower the most vulnerable women by strengthening their capacity to achieve secure livelihoods, with support of the UNDP Gender Equality Project and under the direct supervision of the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA), 20 women from six villages of Injil District had the opportunity to increase their income through jewelry making. For this income-generation activity, the participants were provided training and a toolkit of equipment and materials for making jewelry to start their own production.

Similarly, to ensure income generation with a greater ownership and taking part in decision-making, a local exposure visit was conducted during second quarter. The visit was organized for 12 potential women entrepreneurs, members of PWDC and representatives of DoWA and DAIL from Balkh province to Herat to exchange experiences and raise



*Joint workshop on women in Agriculture with FAO and MAIL
Photo Credit: UNDP-GEP*

awareness about the economic status of women in other provinces and build their capacity to access the necessary resources to improve their economic condition. Exposure visits such as this provided a platform to ensure women's effective participation in meeting their specific needs through developing partnerships and linkages with government departments and other development stakeholders.

GEP-II also held a joint workshop with Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) on the "Role of Women in Agriculture" in collaboration with MAIL. The aim of this workshop was to identify the national priorities for women in agriculture in order to improve household income, food and nutrition security. 60 participants from MAIL, DAIL (Badakhshan, Balkh, Badghis Bamyan and Panjshir, Parwan, Nimroz Herat and Kabul), MoWA, MoE, MoPH, MRRD, UN Agencies, National and International NGOs attended the workshop. The two-day workshop resulted in understanding the major issues, constraints and potential for women in agriculture.

Indicator 2.5. Number of new Provincial Development Council (PWDC) created and approved.

The overall objective of the PWDC is to strengthen the capacity of the officials of provincial and district governments as well as other traditional institutions from a gender perspective. This will enable them to design and implement activities for promoting the political and socio-economic empowerment of women for the delivery of key services. The PWDC is meant to be a platform for the women to assume a leadership role to ensure that women's issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed within the area under their jurisdiction, and with special focus on economic, justice, social and environment sectors.

Capacity assessments of PWDC members are important in order to prepare targeted capacity development plans for them. To carry out the capacity assessment of the existing PWDC, the Economic Empowerment team of GEP-II developed the Terms of Reference for the assessment and supported MoWA in selecting an international organization, Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS) to carry out the assessment. The assessment will result in identifying other actors that work in the same field and potential for collaboration, reduction of duplication of efforts



*PWDC Meeting in Nangarhar
Photo Credit: UNDP – GEP*

and to identify appropriate niches or sectors for GEP-II operations. Thus it will pave the way for the project decision to establish new PWDC in new provinces for the coming year.

Meanwhile, to provide support to DOWA offices in new provinces, GEP-II conducted a capacity assessment in the four major regions of the project. The assessment provided basis for the project management to support DoWA offices to establish PWDCs in their provinces depending upon their needs and requirements. The major findings of the assessment showed that there is a great demand for a project through which activities will be carried out for the gender promotion and women empowerment.

In addition to the capacity assessments, GEP-II continued to provide assistance to strengthen the capacity of the provincial and district level government officials as well as other traditional institutions from a gender perspective and enable them to design and implement activities for promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women. Aside from the participation of members of PWDCs in national and international trainings and exposure visits, GEP-II supported quarterly meetings in Herat, Nangarhar, Bamyan, and Balkh provinces. These meetings provided a venue for council members to discuss ways to support socio-economic development of women. A workshop was also held for **153** members of PWDC, representatives from different departments of DoWA and Governor's office. The workshop aimed at building the capacity of the PWDC as a platform for the women to assume a leadership role and to ensure that women's issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During year 2013, a total of USD 798,983 was spent for this output. For more details, please see annex 2.

2013 BASELINE	2013 ANNUAL TARGETS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2013 ACTUAL	COMMENTS
No integrated package of technical support available for promoting the economic empowerment of women	Eight Business Development Services (BDS) packages provided to women	To provide business development services (BDS) support for the promotion of women's entrepreneurship development preparatory work is underway.	Coordination meetings are underway to select potential local IPs to provide the BDS packages to women entrepreneurs. Two proposals to provide BDS packages to women were received and reviewed	Provided 2 BDS packages in Herat	Due to delay in the procurement of IT equipment, the implementation was shifted to 2014	Efforts were geared to contract NGOs to deliver the BDS packages. The process was shifted to 2014 Annual plan.	Partially Achieved While it was planned that 8 BDS packages will be delivered, the project was unable to meet this goal due to delays in contracting the NGO partner for this activity.
No emphasis on developing new technologies for processing of locally available raw materials	Two women led new clean technologies introduced (through establishing production cum-demonstration centers)	Preparatory work is underway to establish clean and green technology-based enterprises owned by women	Preparatory work is underway to establish clean and green technology-based enterprises owned by women entrepreneurs	To finalize the contracting NGO to introduce new clean technologies	Conducted several meetings with MOWA to finalize contracts for implementing partners	Efforts were geared to contract NGOs to introduce the new clean technology based enterprises. The process	Partially Achieved Delivery of this activity is also dependent on contracting the NGO partner.

		entrepreneurs.	.			was shifted to 2014 Annual plan.	Contracting was delayed which impacted on the delivery of target
Nearly 41 women-led co-operatives in the agricultural sector evaluated to assess existing capacity and identify points for future interventions	Eight functional women coop in targeted areas.	Carried out preparatory work for contracting NGO partner.	Conducted one day workshop for the women cooperatives at Nangarhar province to raise awareness on socio-economic empowerment of women.	Selected NGO but the contracts not finalized	Conducted workshops for the already existing women cooperatives to build their capacity and to raise awareness about socio-economic empowerment of women	Conducted capacity building workshop for the functionality of women coop throughout the year but the new coop establishment shifted to the new year plan 2014.	Partially Achieved Delivery of this activity is also dependent on contracting the NGO partner. Contracting was delayed which impacted on the delivery of target
No formal survey of women entrepreneurs undertaken	Five percent increase in women's income in the targeted population.	Carried out preparatory work for contracting NGO partner.	Sent ToRs to conduct the baseline survey to the UNDP procurement team and RFP announced	Selected NGOs but contracting and implementation will be in 2014	Conducted several meetings with MOWA to finalize contracts for implementing partners		Not achieved

C. OUTPUT 3: Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.

The overall goal of Output 3 is to improve demand for and access to justice and human rights for women and girls and to improve the quality of delivery both in the availability and accessibility of need-based services for vulnerable women.

Indicator 3.1 Number of events organized (trainings, conferences, seminars, media events, TV spots) for advocacy about gender awareness

Gender equality goals can be pursued more effectively when practical and beneficial considerations, such as tangible social and economic projects are blended with awareness and sensitization programmes, based on local needs and priorities. In this regard, GEP-II has put its efforts on raising awareness about gender equality.

In order to continue dissemination of materials and advocacy activities to mobilize communities especially the religious leaders about the need and significance of the toll free hotline services, social mobilizers were active thorough out the year. The social mobilizers conducted awareness raising about access to justice and human rights of women to more than **2400** community members particularly women in four target regions of the project.

In 2013, GEP-II supported initiatives that raised awareness on gender equality. In the third quarter, a joint workshop was conducted with Afghanistan Sub-national Governance Project (ASGP) for 20 PC members and 10 members of DoWA from 5 Northern provinces. This two-day event aimed at providing the participants with an opportunity to carry out useful discussion on the promotion of gender issues particularly gender awareness and gender and development as well as to identify challenges towards effective implementation and monitoring of NAPWA objectives application in governmental entities in north provinces. At the end of the workshop, a joint action plan was prepared both by DoWA and PC members which will provide a guide for both the project to work for the promotion of gender issues particularity in Northern region.

In order to raise awareness about the women human rights, gender equality and elimination of violence against women, national level campaign was organized in 10 provinces by MoWA and the relevant DoWA offices with the support of GEP-II. The grand campaign covered 400 community members including the officials from DoWA offices members of PWDCs and Women Community Development Councils (CDCs).

In order to raise and to strengthen MoWA's capacity to support gender, justice and human rights awareness activities GEP-II supported events related to Mother Day's celebration at national and sub-national level. Using the observance of Mother's Day as an opportunity to

raise awareness on gender related issues in Afghanistan, more than 1000 women (particularly mothers) participated in the awareness-raising sessions in four regions of the project.

Indicator 3.2 Percentage of reported gender based violence cases resolved by Legal Help Centers (LHCs)

To provide access to the justice and human rights to the victims of domestic violence, LHCs from the following regions received **462** cases. As can be gleaned from the data in the table below, of those cases received, **83%** were resolved by the LHCs through local mediation while the remaining cases were referred to judiciary and police.

PROVINCE NAME	NUMBER OF CASES REGISTERED	NUMBER OF RESOLVED CASES THROUGH LOCAL MEDIATION		NUMBER OF CASES REFERRED TO JUDICIARY	NUMBER OF CASES REFERRED TO POLICE
Balkh	310	248	80%	14.5%	0.96%
Nangarhar	73	54	74%	24.6%	1.3%
Bamyan	79	64	81%	17.7%	1.26%
Total	462	382	83%	17%	.01%

In the fourth quarter of 2013 a workshop was conducted in three regions of the project to carry out an assessment of the current LHCs. **140** participants including managers and paralegals from Mazar, Jalalabad and Bamyan City and different districts of Balkh, Nangarhar and Bamyan province, officials from DoWA, Department of Justice (DoJ), PC, CSOs, CCA, Global Rights, Balkh University Legal Clinic, and Government counter parts participated. The workshop collected suggestions for strengthening and re-structuring the LHCs at the regional level and to bring LHC representatives and paralegals together to establish a consensus and better coordination in relation to the challenges they face and the opportunities that are available.

In order to continue dissemination of materials and advocacy activities to mobilize communities especially the religious leaders about the need and significance of the toll free

hotline services, social mobilizers were active thorough out the second quarter. The social mobilizers conducted awareness raising about access to justice and human rights of women to 1570 community members particularly women in four target regions of the project.

Indicator 3.3 Number of paralegal network newly established

In principle, Afghan women have Constitutional equality but in reality, they face legal inequality. There are huge discrepancies between customary law, civil law and Islamic Law – as well as the informal justice system, which tend to grant women even fewer rights³. Years of conflict and violence have further eroded the protection of women's (limited) rights, and a culture of impunity reigns as far as violence is concerned, including violence against women inside and outside the household. These factors constitute the most serious obstacles to promoting rule of law, respect for human rights and introduction of legal reform which could benefit women immensely.

The LHCs assessment workshop as mentioned in the indicator above also provided an opportunity to all the paralegals and LHCs managers to come together on a single platform. These workshops brought together the LHC representatives and paralegals to establish a consensus and better coordination in relation to the challenges they faced and the opportunities that are available. This workshop was a step towards the establishment of networks among the paralegals.

Indicator 3.4 Number of religious leaders trained to advocate for women's rights

In Afghanistan, religious leaders and scholars play a very influential role in promoting women's rights. In collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA) GEP-II supported a 3-day training workshop in November 2013 for religious scholars representing every province of Afghanistan. More than **100** Islamic scholars, including women scholars participated in the three-day workshop on "Analysis of Women's Rights and Elimination of Violence against Women in Islam." The training workshop was aimed at building capacity of religious scholars

Addressing the workshop, UNDP Country Director Alvaro Rodriguez said, "It is vital to look at women's rights from an Islamic perspective in Afghanistan. Combating violence against women is a matter of great concern to the Afghan society and the international community. Religious leaders have a vital role to play to educate the public about the messages of Islam that protect the rights of women. We need the support of the Ulema and religious teachers to help communicate this message."

³ World Bank (2005), "Afghanistan National Reconstruction and Poverty Reduction – The Role of Women in Afghanistan's Future," World Bank, Washington, D.C.

and teachers who can influence cultural and religious beliefs of all spheres of a community on women's rights from the Islamic perspective and international laws.

To improve demand for and access to justice and human rights for women and girls in Afghanistan and to support MoWA in interacting more regularly with other stakeholders in the justice sector including MoHRA, GEP supported coordination meetings with the working group of MoHRA to come up and agree on an action plan on improving women's access to justice. The action plan was finalized and some of the activities such as religious leaders training were completed in 2013 while the remaining activities will be implemented in 2014.

EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR

During year 2013, a total of USD 511,007 was spent for this output. For more details, please see annex 2.

Table 3: Objective 3 Performance Indicators and Actual Achievements

2013 BASELINE	2013 ANNUAL TARGETS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2013 ACTUAL	COMMENTS
Advocacy campaigns have been conducted at sub-national level at four target provinces and at national level	2 nationwide advocacy campaigns organized for the gender awareness of different target groups	Consultation with legal dept. head has been initiated to review the activities fall under pillar III in AWP	The social mobilizers conducted awareness raising about access to justice and human rights of women to 1570 community members particularly women in four target regions of the project.	Developed proposal from MoWA to organize nationwide advocacy and awareness raising campaign	Conducted one nationwide advocacy and awareness raising campaigns in 10 provinces by MoWA and DowA offices with technical and financial support provided by provided GEP-II	The target for the year 2013 was 50 % achieved and the remaining of the activities has been shifted to 2014 Annual Plan.	On track
LHCs supported by GEP-I resolved over 1,200 cases.	35% reported gender based violence cases are resolved by LHCs.	Received 279 cases out of which 198 have been resolved by mediation.	Received 201 cases 91.5% of cases were resolved by the LHCs through local mediation while the	Finalized contracting arrangement for Centre for Conflict and Peace studies	Conducted LHCs internal assessment in three target regions to support	Registered 480 cases in two quarters, more than 50 % of which have been resolved. Finalized the contracts of	On track

			remaining cases were referred to judiciary (3.5%) and police (5%)	(CAPS) to carry out the capacity assessment of LHCs	LHCs logistically and technically in future	NGOs. and the actual implementation will be in 2014	
No paralegal network established.	1 paralegal network newly established.	Preparatory work has been done	Analyzed ToRs and submitted to the procurement unit of UNDP CO to recruit the IPs to carry out the capacity assessment of the LHCs which will provide a base towards the strengthening the existing and establishment of the new paralegal networks in the target regions of the project.	Finalized assessment tool has. The assessment will be carried through workshops in four regions of the project (Balkh, Bamyan, Herat and Nangarhar)	Conducted assessment in three regions and the remaining regions will be covered in 2014	Conducted one workshop for all the paralegals and LHCs managers to bring them on a single platform while the networking has been shifted to 2014.	On track
Approximately 3,000 religious leaders trained by GEP-I who advocated for	1,000 religious leaders trained to advocate for	No training was conducted	Conducted a meeting with the working	Received 3 proposals and	Conducted workshop for 120	Trained 120 religious leaders and will	On track

women's rights.	women's rights	due to various programmatic work done at the project level	group of MoHRA to develop a plan of action for the awareness rising of religious leaders	evaluated to organize trainings for 300 religious leaders	religious scholars representing nearly every province of Afghanistan about the gender awareness and human rights	continue in 2014	
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III. GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS

The project's three pillars aimed at improving the status of Afghan women across the key sectors, policy review and support, sustainable livelihoods, access to clean energy, justice and human rights and to mobilize emerging civil society in support of the women's empowerment and gender equality.

IV. PARTNERSHIPS

GEP-II actively pursues partnerships especially with local implementing partners since they help ensure sustainability of the gains of the project. In 2013, partners were selected for the implementation of the project activities. Project partners include NGOs (National and International) that were contracted by MoWA. These partners will be responsible for carrying out the following activities:

- Baseline Survey to measure the socio-economic status of the women in target regions
- Capacity Assessment of LHCs and PWDC established in GEP-I
- Capacity development of the women cooperatives
- Capacity development of women entrepreneurs

These partnerships will contribute towards capacity building support for the promotion of entrepreneurship development for women entrepreneurs and women cooperatives.

Partnership was also established with FAO and ACCI (Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry) for the economic empowerment of women. This partnership will be continued with FAO through MAIL for further activities of the project.

To promote and contribute to the coordination of gender-related activities across UNDP project, GEP-II partnered with (Afghanistan Sub-National Governance Programme) ASGP through the organization of a joint workshop for promotion of gender issues, as well as to identify challenges towards effective implementation and monitoring of NAPWA for both DoWA and PC staff.

To foster broad-based local level collaboration and partnerships for the promotion of gender equality among UNDP projects, GEP-II is closely working with the Gender Units of NABDP. This partnership will also support GEP-II in the economic empowerment of women in collaboration with women Shuras and Community Development Councils (CDCs) that are the major stakeholders of NABDP.

Several coordination meetings were conducted by the regional coordinators in the four targeted regions of the project to introduce scope and objectives of the second phase of the project. The meetings were conducted with the UN agencies, UNDP projects, CSOs, women cooperatives, local NGOs to establish partnership for the project implementation particularly in the areas of economic empowerment and legal justice to the vulnerable women.

To establish networking with academic institutions within Afghanistan and in the region, coordination has been initiated with the Middle East University of Ankara that would lay the foundation for a solid partnership to share experiences, information and good practices. The partnership will be strengthened in the coming quarters of the project.

V. RISKS

- **Security**

In 2013, security concerns posed a challenge in completing some of the planned activities of the project. In Q2, the GSI training programme for KU was delayed due to demonstrations and strikes by the students and faculty members but completed at a later date.

Additionally, project activities were delayed in some regions (Nangarhar and Kabul) due to security incidents. GSI trainings were delayed and staff movements were effected for short period of time but these were resumed later on.

VI. ISSUES:

- **Change in the Project Management**

The project manager of GEP, resigned from her job at the end of 2012 which was a very critical time for the project. This sudden change in management posed problems for the approval of AWP, budget, HR plan and procurement plan but under supervision of OIC these issues of project were mitigated later on. The new project manager is on board and the activities per AWP will be conducted as planned.

- **Non-availability of funds for the implementation of the activities**

The project was unable to find out any donor for the project planned output till the mid of first quarter and it also resulted in the delay of the various activities. But after the joining of new project manager, project was successful in getting a new donor for the project.

- **Revision of the Annual Work Plan (AWP)**

The AWP for the year 2013 was revised with some major changes in terms of the donors' contribution to the project implementation. Most of the Japan funded activities have now been supported by the new donor Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) while Italy will fund WPDC and M&E unit of MoWA. Keeping the time span for the implementation of the project activities, some of the activities were deleted this year but will be implemented in the coming year.

- **Need to accelerate the project implementation**

During the first quarter of the project, the major focus was on the recruitment and approval of the project documents and this posed delay in the implementation of the planned activities. In the second quarter all the regional coordinators are on board and were advised by the Project Management to develop their action plans for the remaining quarters to according to the AWP to gear up the project implementation at sub-national level.

The selection of NGOs contracted by MoWA required a lengthy process in order to carry out a transparent, effective and fair selection.

Due to increase in the number of the project staff, the project space was not enough and conducive to work properly. In this regard, project management geared its efforts to renovate the project office so that it will have a positive effect on staff working abilities.

The financial issues from the previous phase of GEP still pending and the project finance and operation staff dealt with pending payments. It took more time and energy to solve these issues but these have been finally resolved at the end of the third quarter. This will further open ways for the mutual collaboration for both the projects for the awareness rising about gender issues.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

- **Phasing the project extension in realistic way for the effective implementation**

The extension of the project from 19 provinces was reduced to 10 provinces in the first year of the project. Due to lack of capable staff and lack of potential implementing partners in the new provinces, it was unrealistic to carry out the project activities in 19 provinces in the first year of the project. Thus, expansion of project sites has to be done in phases. In 2013, the project covered 4 provinces while in 2014; the project will cover at least 10 provinces (4 existing and 6 new provinces) and the remaining provinces in the third year of the project.

- **Up-scaling of project interventions for improved access by women to the legal justice system and economic empowerment**

In order to strengthen and replicate the existing models for the economic empowerment and legal justice system to the new provinces, an impact assessment of PWDCs and LHCs have to be carried out. The findings will support national ownership and sustainability of project interventions.

VIII. FUTURE PLANS

Output 1: Enhancement of MoWA's capacity for policy making and oversight of NAPWA implementation

- Inter-ministerial structure will be established in coordination with MoWA to enhance the partnership with the government stakeholders
- Support will be extended to the M&E unit of MoWA in the field of Database of NAPWA indicators
- Partnership will be strengthened and concrete steps will be taken towards the launch Master's Degree Program for KU
- Policy review and support to MoWA will be extended to the remaining LM and capacity building support in this regard will be provided by organizing national and international workshops
- GRB strategic plan has been developed and implementation strategy will be developed in the coming year

Output 2: Development of women's entrepreneurship skills and capacity building for women cooperatives

- Baseline Survey to measure the existing socio-economic condition of rural women in the target provinces will be conducted
- Advancements will be made in the field of introducing new clean technologies and capacity building events and programs will be organized for women entrepreneurs and women cooperatives
- Project will be geographically expanded to 10 provinces to facilitate the participation of women in the development process while simultaneously increasing their active involvement in income-generation activities

Output 3: Increasing access to justice including awareness of women's rights

- To Increase access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men and women, training and advocacy campaigns at national and provincial level will be conducted
- Institutionalize LHCs in existing provinces and establish in 6 new provinces
- Organize regional dialogues and provide platform for women's participation in peace dialogues

IX. ANNEXES

A. ANNEX 1: FINANCIAL TABLE

Interim Donor Report Jan - Dec 2013 for the GEP

Annex 1. Financial Table

Donor Name	COMMITMENT/ PREVIOUS YEARS RECORD				CURRENT YEAR - 2013					FUTURE EXPENSES		TOTAL RECEIVABLE		
	Commitment (a)	Revenue Collected 31/12/2012 (b)	Expenses 31/12/2012 (c)	IPSAS Adjustment (d)	Opening Balance E=(b-c+d)	Contribution Revenue (f)	Other Revenue (g)	Expenses (h)	Closing Balance I=(e+f+g - h)	Commitments (Unliquidated Obligations) (j)	Undepreciated of fixed Assets and Inventory (k)	(Future Due) L=(a-b-f)	(Past Due) (m)	Available Resources N=(i - j - k-m)
Afghanistan (MOF)	224,466	-	-	-	-	224,466	-	57,532	166,934	8,321	-	-	-	158,613
CIDA	2,337,108	-	-	-	-	2,337,108	-	956,043	1,381,065	61,815	57,439	-	-	1,261,811
Italy	813,898	-	-	-	-	813,898	-	178,385	635,513	19,062	-	-	-	616,451
UNDP Core Fund	3,324,080	-	-	-	-	3,324,080	-	2,019,294	1,304,786	535,053	15,086	-	-	754,647
Denmark	106,000	-	-	-	-	106,000	-	-	106,000	-	-	-	-	106,000
Korea	11,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,800,000	-	-	3,800,000	-	-	7,200,000	-	3,800,000
Grand Total	17,805,552	-	-	-	-	10,605,552	-	3,211,254	7,394,298	624,251	72,525	7,200,000	-	6,697,522

Note:

i) The figures provided in the above statement are provisional; the final figures will be communicated by UNDP HQ through the certified financial report by end of April 2014

ii) Income received in currency other than USD is approximated to USD based on UN- Operational Rate of Exchange applied.

B. ANNEX 2: EXPENSES BY OUTPUT

Project Output ID and Description	2013 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan - Dec 2013)	Delivery Rate
Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	2,416,577	861,672	
Sub-total Output 1	2,416,577	861,672	36%
Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	1,152,926	798,983	
Sub-total Output 2	1,152,926	798,983	69%
Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	1,607,027	511,007	
Sub-total Output 3	1,607,027	511,007	32%
Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,457,858	1,039,592	
Sub-total Output 4	1,457,858	1,039,592	71%
Grand Total	6,634,388	3,211,254	48%

C. ANNEX 3: EXPENSES BY DONOR

Donor Name	Project Output ID and Description	2013 Budget (AWP)	Expenses (Jan-Dec-2013)	Delivery Rates
Afghanistan (MOF)	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	224,465	57,532	26%
Sub-Total		224,465	57,532	26%
CIDA	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	696,436	240,694	35%
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	660,619	420,115	64%
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	914,890	295,234	32%
Sub-Total		2,271,945	956,043	42%
Italy	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	813,898	178,385	22%
Sub-Total		813,898	178,385	22%
UNDP	Output 1 (ID: 00085178): MOWA's capacity of policy making and oversight of NAPWA Implementation improved.	681,779	385,061	56%
	Output 2 (ID: 00085152): Women's entrepreneurship skills developed for women entrepreneurs and cooperatives in 19 provinces.	492,306	378,867	77%
	Output 3 (ID: 00085146): Access to justice for women including awareness on women's rights among men & women increased.	692,137	215,773	31%
	Output 4 (ID: 00085179): Project Management Cost	1,457,858	1,039,593	71%
Sub-Total		3,324,080	2,019,294	61%
Grand Total		6,634,388	3,211,254	48%

D. ANNEX 4: ISSUES LOG

ID	Type	Date Identified	Description	Status/Priority	Status Change Date	Author
	Organizational	July-Sep	Lengthy selection process of contracting NGOs by MoWA.	Resolved/P=5	Dec, 2013	Economic Empowerment Specialist, Project Manger
	Organizational	July-Sep	Low and ineffective office space	Resolved/P=3	Oct, 2013	Project Manger Operations Specialist
	Organizational	July-Sep	Pending issues from previous phase of GEP	Resolved/P=3	Nov,2013	Project Manger Operations Staff
	Organizational	June 18 th ,2013	Change in the allocation of donor for funding the project	Resolved/P=5	June,2013	Project Manager
	Organizational	Jan-March,2013	Delay in the project activities at sub-national level	Resolved/P=4	Oct, 2013	Project Manager Economic Empowerment Specialist Regional Coordinators

		Jan 2013	Change in the project management	Resolved/P=5	Feb,2013	OIC Who has been appointed to address this issue?
		Jan-Feb- March-2013	Non availability of the funds for the implementation of the project activities	Resolved/P=5	June,2013	Project Manager and CPU staff of CO.

E. ANNEX 5: RISK LOG

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Status
1	Sustainability of the LHCs. LHCs working at the sub-national level	From Jan 2013 the LHCs in Herat stopped working and denied to report project	Operational /Strategic	Access to justice to the rural women in Herat was affected and the probability is High	Project geared up its activities towards the sustainability of the LHCs at sub-national level by promoting national ownership. Major emphasis was be given on how MoWA will support LHCs after the finishing of GEP.	Project Manager	M&E Specialist in Herat	Undertaken relevant preparatory activities towards the sustainability of the LHCs at regional level
2	Demonstration by the students and faculty members of the KU. The deteriorating security situation of the country at national and sub-national level.	May-June,2013	Environmental	Delay in the organization of the GSI training for the KU and delay in the overall implementation of the project activities at sub-national level. P = 4 I = 3	The training was postponed to the later date and was completed after the demonstrations ended. The regional coordinators cancelled their visit to the target sites and continue their work from their offices.	Project Manager	GSI Associate and TAD of MoWA Regional Coordinators Regional Coordinators	Resolved

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response	Owner	Submitted by	Status
3	Security incidents in Kabul and Jalalabad	15 th July	Environmental	P= 4 I=4	The project activities was postponed for later date	GSI assistant Security Focal Point	GSI Assistant	Resolved
4	Under staffing in the programmatic activities	July-Sep	Organizational	P= 5 I=5	The recruitment of the project program staff was expedited and the staff are on board from the end of third quarter	Project Manager Operations Specialist	Project Manager	Resolved